



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF
KITAGAWA et al.

Confirmation No.: 1661

Group Art Unit: 1753

Appln. No.: 09/662,937

Examiner: VERSTEEG, STEVEN H

Filed: September 15, 2000

Title: BRIGHT SURFACE STRUCTURE AND A MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

February 24, 2003

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 26, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

OK
to
enter
SAV
March 9, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a surface structure formed on an aluminum wheel for an automobile, said method comprising:

- (a) coating a resin film on said aluminum wheel; and
- (b) forming a thin metal film ~~having a homogeneous composition throughout a whole thickness of said thin metal film~~ and having a color similar to chrome on said resin film, wherein said thin metal film is made from a titanium-aluminum alloy containing 20-50% by weight of titanium and 80-50% by weight of aluminum formed by any one of cathode arc ion plating and sputtering using a single sintered target containing 20%-50% by weight of titanium and 80%-50% by weight of aluminum in a vacuum atmosphere.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, further comprising:

- (c) coating a clear protective film on said metal film.

02/27/2004 JBAL:IN 00000133 033975 09662937
01 FC:1251 110.00 DA
02/27/2004 JBAL:IN 00000133 033975 09662937
02 FC:1201 258.00 DA
02 27 2004 10 00 DA